

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00394 010546Z

11

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OIC-02 /115 W

----- 052397

R 010432Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1021

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, MU

SUBJECT: OMAN-USG CONSULTATIONS ON LOS

REF: GENEVA 2020

1. FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 31 THAT OMAN DEL TO LOS CONFERENCE HAD CABLED REQUESTING INSTRUCTIONS RE PROFFERED CONSULTATIONS WITH USDEL. AFTER REREADING CABLE, UNDERSECRETARY WENT ON TO COMMENT ON OMAN POSITION RE INNOCENT PASSAGE; EMBOFF ASSUMES THAT USDEL HAS APPROACHED OMANDEL SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS THIS ITEM (PARA 7 OF REFTTEL).

2. DURING COURSE OF ENSUING CONVERSATION, SOURCE STATED THAT OMAN ANTICIPATES REGIME WHEREIN COASTAL STATE (IN THIS CASE, OMAN) COULD INTERPRET "INNOCENT PASSAGE" TO FAVOR FRIENDLY POWERS AND BAR HOSTILE ONES FROM USING STRAITS. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE GRATIFIED THAT USG PRESUMABLY WOULD BE A FAVORED "FRIENDLY" STATE RE STRAITS OF HORMUZ, THIS MIGHT NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00394 010546Z

BE CASE IN OTHER STRAITS AFFECTED BY UNIVERSAL LOS CONVENTION.

SUCH FORMULATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE AND WOULD PRESENT POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS SINCE "INNOCENCE" WOULD SO BLATANTLY BE BASED ON POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF FOREIGN FLAG INVOLVED; CERTAINLY, ANY HINT OF OMAN'S INTENTIONS WOULD AROUSE SUSPICION AND OPPOSITION IN LOS.

3. SOURCE THEN WENT ON TO STATE THAT ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION IN OMANGOV POLICY WOULD BE TO BAR PASSAGE TO UNSAFE VESSELS, INCLUDING SOME SINGLE ENGINE TANKERS WHICH POSE HYPOTHETICAL POLLUTION THREAT. AGAIN, EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN POLLUTION STANDARDS PROVISIONS OF LOS CONVENTION, NOT THAT CONCERNING STRAITS.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE GIVES FLAVOR OF HOW FUZZY OMANGOV THINKING IS ON COMPLICATED LOS ISSUES. EMBOFF URGED THAT FONMIN ENDORSE INTER-DELEGATION CONSULTATIONS AT GENEVA. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST POINT OUT THAT ANY SHIFT IN OMANGOV POLICY ON STRAITS ISSUE WILL BE DETERMINED IN MUSCAT, NOT GENEVA. HOW WELL AND CONVINCINGLY OMANDEL WILL CONVEY USG ARGUMENTATION IS OPEN TO QUESTION, AND WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY WORK DIRECTLY WITH FONMIN IN ATTEMPT TO RESHAPE OMANI THINKING, IN WHICH CASE WE WILL NEED LATEST INFORMATION ON USG POSITIONS ON POLLUTION STANDARDS AS WELL AS FREE PASSAGE (EMBASSY HAS BASIC MATERIALS AND GOOD GRASP OF BASIC ISSUES INVOLVED).
WOLLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MEETING REPORTS, STRAITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT00394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750111-1145
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750494/aaaadhpp.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 2020
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMAN-USG CONSULTATIONS ON LOS
TAGS: PLOS, MU
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006